

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council
Charter/Purpose
October 8, 2013

Purpose

The purpose of the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council (WDAC) is to advise the Department through the Director's office on matters pertaining to Wildlife Diversity (nongame species and habitat).

Terms of Members/Recruitment

Members shall serve terms of three years. Members must resubmit a request to be reappointed at the end of this period. Members may be re-appointed for multiple terms. The Department shall seek and consider a broad range of stakeholders that may include but not be limited to a breadth of geographic and age distributions, environmental and conservation organizations, land trusts, representatives from the agricultural and forest industries, sporting groups (hunting/fishing), and members of academia with expertise in wildlife species and their habitats. Members who have multiple conservation group affiliations and/or areas of expertise are preferable.

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

- ☐ Clearly define the advisory group's role.
- ☐ Provide the Department's mission and goal statements and planning documents.
- ☐ Provide timely opportunities for advisors to counsel the agency on policy and provide timely communication on emerging issues.
- ☐ Schedule meetings in consultation with advisors and provide meeting places. Scheduling should take into account the volunteer nature of advisory group members—choosing times and locations that are most convenient and scheduling as far in advance as possible.
- ☐ Provide background and other briefing material.
- ☐ Facilitate meetings and conference calls as needed.
- ☐ Develop meeting agendas.
- ☐ Be respectful of the views of others and carefully consider the views of the advisors.
- ☐ Communicate the advisors' comments, views, and perspectives to agency leadership prior to decision-making.
- ☐ Provide feedback regarding how the Department uses advisors' input.

Advisor Roles and Responsibilities

- ☐ Provide advice to the Department on agency proposed regulations, policies, and management plans for budgets, species, ecosystems, or Department lands. Such advice should consider:
 - 1) conservation of fish and wildlife resources
 - 2) the effect on local economies and social structures
 - 3) the views of various constituent groups
 - 4) potential conflicts among user groups using a specific fish or wildlife resource
 - 5) enforcement issues and the need for additional enforcement resources
- ☐ Communicate stakeholder opinions, attitudes, and needs to the agency.
- ☐ Identify areas of concern and recommend change.
- ☐ Understand their group's roles and responsibilities.

- ☐ Keep up-to-date on issues and regulations affecting their focus areas.
- ☐ Attend public workshops or forums established by the Department (such as the North of Falcon process) or regional meetings addressing fish or wildlife issues, such as herd management plans, watchable wildlife, or local fishing issues.
- ☐ Keep the Department advised of current trends and developments.
- ☐ Provide advice regarding enforcement and regulatory compliance issues.
- ☐ Assist the Department in developing communication strategies and communicating with members of the public regarding the issues that come before the advisory group.
- ☐ Be respectful and carefully consider the views of others.
- ☐ Attend advisory group meetings or advise the Department of absences. Requests to have an alternate attend should be coordinated with the Department in advance, and may not always be accommodated.

Caveat

Unless specifically authorized, advisory groups do not have the authority to enforce policy or create rules, but their analysis and recommendations can play an important role in furthering the effective operation of state government.

Serving on the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council (WDAC)

Every three years, WDFW engages in an outreach effort to receive nominations for appointment to the Council. To ensure the council represents a diversity of views, WDFW especially encourages applicants who can represent Eastern Washington, academia, agriculture, timberland owners, land trusts, sportsmen, and conservation organizations that focus on nongame animals and watchable wildlife. The Director appoints members to the advisory council based on their knowledge and experience regarding nongame species and their ability to communicate their perspectives in a productive manner to the Agency and a broader group of stakeholders. However, nominees do not have to be affiliated with an organized group. Nominations must be submitted in writing with the following information:

- Nominee's name, address, telephone number, and email address.
- Relevant experience and reasons for wanting to serve as a member of the advisory group.
- Nominee's effectiveness in communication.
- Name and contact information for any individual or organization submitting a nomination.

Wildlife advisory council members serve three-year terms, and should be available for quarterly advisory committee meetings. The council typically holds three to four meetings a year, most being for one day, with one possibly extended to two days if any Council related field trip or project review is warranted. Special meetings may be called when special issues/topics arise. Council members, upon request, will be reimbursed by WDFW for travel expenses to attend meetings.